AIDS drug

1122. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our AIDS drugs have been adjudged as the best in the world;

(b) if so, the details of the drugs which have been acknowledged universally best;

(c) whether it is also a fact that WHO and other developed countries are procuring these high quality drugs; and

(d) if so, the details of these agencies?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) The generic anti-retroviral drugs being manufactured by Indian pharmaceutical companies are on the approved list of WHO. They are more cost effective than the branded drugs manufactured in western countries.

Indian anti-retroviral drugs have been tested in the Cameroon by the French National Agency for Research on AIDS. It was found that the Indian combination of generic drugs works as well as the branded name drugs.

(c) and (d) WHO has procured ARV drugs from Indian pharmaceutical companies and has supplied for use in the National AIDS Control Programme.

It is learnt that generic anti-retroviral drugs are exported by the pharmaceutical industry to other countries but we do not monitor this matter.

Delay in settlement of Bills

1123. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is undue delay in the settlement of the bills for the supply of medicines to CGHS pensioners during chemists' strike;